Defence cooperation agreement between India and Tajikistan

316. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Tajikistan have signed an agreement for Defence Co-operation in the field of Defence training, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) An Agreement on Military Technical Cooperation between India and Tajikistan was signed on April 25, 2002. The Agreement provides **a** framework for defence co-operation between the two countries, including in the field of defence training.

Development of 'Lariat' by Defence Scientists

317. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian defence scientists have achieved a breakthrough by developing a Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile 'Lahaf for our main battle tank 'Arjun';

(b) if so, the special features of 'Lahaf; and

(c) how it would enhance the fighting capability of the MBT Arjun?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has completed a project establishing feasibility of integrating laser homing anti tank missile 'Lahaf with Main Battle Tank 'Arjun'.

(b) The Lahat missile can be fired from the barrel of MBT Arjun tank. It is semi active having laser homing guidance.

(c) Launching of Lahaf guided missile is an add-on facility on MBT Arjun. The laser homing guidance increases accuracy, hit and kill probability at longer ranges and also improves the survivability of MBT Arjun.

Acquiring nuclear powered submarines for Indian Navy

318. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy has requested the

Government to acquire nuclear powered submarines capable of employing nuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) It will not be in the national interest to disclose any information on the Floor of the House.

Conduct of exercises by Singapore Air Force over Indian air space

319. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Singapore Air Force has been allowed to conduct exercises over the Indian air space and their army has also been given permission to carry out training exercises on Indian soil; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement concluded with Singapore and the reasons for allowing a foreign country to use Indian air space and land for their military exercises?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

MiG aircrafts with IAF

†320. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MiG aircrafts in the fleet of Indian Air Force; how old this fleet is;

(b) whether accidents in MiG aircrafts have become a common feature; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence is planning to procure aircrafts with better technology after removing MiG aircrafts from its fleet; if so, by when; and

(d) the number of pilots and common people killed in aircraft accidents together with the losses suffered by the Air Force due to these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Indian Air Force (IAF) have adequate number of MiG aircraft along with

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.